



First Presbyterian Church  
of Elk Rapids

404 Spruce Street, Elk Rapids, Michigan 49629  
231-264-8167 • info@erfpc.org

Rev. Jim Porter, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Sandra Murray, Parish Associate  
Cheryl Knight, Director of Music Ministries  
Melanie Stoll, Contemporary Worship Leader  
Wayne Potter, Director of Youth and Family Life Ministries

March 8, 2020

MEDITATION TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS  
AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

*God has always loved us and always will. Everything God has done – from creation to the birth of Christ to his many blessings today - has been because God loves us. Even when we have gone wrong, God has sought to forgive us and bring us back to the right path, out of love. Even when we are assailed by difficulties and disappointments and troubles of all kinds, because of love, God's compassionate presence brings us comfort and hope.*

*God's eternal love was made manifest, through the life and death of Jesus Christ.*

**Our Mission**

Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;  
Deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;  
Demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

# Traditional Worship – 9:00 AM

*\* Signifies the congregation may stand as able. | Please silence all electronic devices.*

## Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church!

If you do not have a church home in the area, we invite you to make our church yours. Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor so you can get acquainted.



*We encourage you to take a moment to check in on Facebook.*

### PREPARING

THE PRELUDE – “*Rejoice Ye Pure In Heart*” arr. by Carlson

WELCOME

\*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

MINUTE FOR MISSION Pam Coleman

RINGING OF THE HISTORIC CHURCH BELL AND  
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

### GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP Ellie Ward

Leader: Friends of God, believe this –

**People: God loved the world, God loves the world, we  
are the beloved!**

Leader: May the truth of this great love story, shine  
through our worship today, and renew our sense  
of calling. Friends of God,

**All: let us worship!**

\*OPENING HYMN 634 – *To God Be the Glory*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (followed by silent confessions) Jordan Jansen

**All: Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us  
with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved  
you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask  
us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice,  
warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in  
mercy, we admit our sin and we repent in spirit and in  
truth. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – *Kyrie*

**Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS<sup>1</sup>

Jordan Jansen

Leader: Christ died for our sins. He made a full atonement for us. We are forgiven and we have the promise of eternal life. Feel that forgiveness in your heart. We are His children. Amen.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN

Autumn Snyder

ANTHEM – “*Christ Be In My Waking*”

arr. by Shackley

Soloist: Ginny Dorner

**PROCLAIMING**

SCRIPTURE READING – John 3:1-18 (NLT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“A Love Story”

Marcy Potter

**RESPONDING**

\*RESPONSIVE HYMN 250 – *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY – “*We Are Marching in the Light of God*” (new hymn p. 853)

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All: Each of us is a fragile miracle, evidence of God's creative hands, and amazing grace. We are each unique, unrepeatable gifts to the world. We are proof of God's love. And so, we who are the gifts of creation now give gifts to our Creator. Gifts brought in love. Amen.**

**\*CONCLUDING HYMN 213 – *In the Cross of Christ I Glory***

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Leader: In the coming week what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him; deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him; and demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE – *“Let There Be Peace On Earth”***

**THE POSTLUDE – *“Come Christians Join to Sing”* arr. by Larson**

**WORSHIP CONCLUDES—SERVICE BEGINS!**

Thank you Katherine Beier for playing flute today.

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Welcome friends.** If you are a guest, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad at the end of each pew, and include a phone number or email address so we can acknowledge your visit today. We hope your worship experience is meaningful and uplifting. Meet new friends at “Fellowship Hour” in the narthex before and after worship. Also, be sure to pick up a “Welcome” folder from our guest table also located in the narthex.

**Child care.** Qualified caregivers welcome infants and children through 5 years old.



**We have an induction hearing loop system** for hearing aid users. Please switch hearing aids to “T” or see the sound technician for help.

**Large print bulletins and hymn sheets available from an usher.**

**Thank you.** Special thanks to our greeter: Don Reynolds; ushers: Sandy & Don Davids, Diane & Tom Thompson; and fellowship hour: Fellowship Team.

**Prayer requests:** Don & Sandy Davids’ granddaughter Alexa, Karyl Mangus’ granddaughter Jessica, Donald Kinloch, Olivia Lein, Suzanna Lein, Mike Cameron, Caleigh Gordon (Former Eagle Village resident), Nash Nichols (Tom & Diane Thompson’s grandson), Denise Elmi’s son Josh, Len Sheldon, Roger Gehrt, Mary Sawyer’s friend Mac, Caroline Dixon, Edson Murray, Bruce Hulwick, Carolyn Cross (Sandy Davids’ mother), Lou Sanford, Tom Klingler, Nilah Farmer, Les Teague, Paul White, and Pastoral Leaders of the Presbytery.

**Save the Date: Saturday, May 2, 8:30AM – 3:30PM**

A Women’s Ecumenical Retreat – sponsored by a group of local women. We will enjoy a day of listening, singing and exploring our faith. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids. \$25. Lunch included (grants available).

**Wired Word - March**

“Wired Word,” our discussion of topics in the news, will meet on March 18 at AmVets. Don’t miss this thought-provoking discussion!

## **This Week's Activities**

### **Sun. 3/8**

- 9 a.m. Traditional Service
- 10 a.m. Youth Brunch
- 11 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 3:30 p.m. Cantata Practice

### **Mon. 3/9**

- 9 a.m. PEO in Fellowship Hall
- 1 p.m. Worship MT
- 5 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
- 5:45 p.m. "Jesus of Nazareth" Movie

### **Tues. 3/10**

- 10 a.m. Bible Girls
- 6:30 p.m. Endowment MT

### **Wed. 3/11**

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast Club @ LH
- 9 a.m. Bulletin Items Due
- 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice

### **Thurs. 3/12**

- 5:30 p.m. Fellowship MT
- 7 p.m. Trustee Meeting

### **Fri. 3/13**

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Group @ TJ Charlie's

## **Next Week's Activities**

### **Sun. 3/15**

- 9 a.m. Traditional Service
- 10 a.m. SS/Youth/Adult Class
- 11 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 3:30 p.m. Cantata Practice

### **Mon. 3/16**

- 1 p.m. Adult Uk @ LH
- 5 p.m. Free Community Dinner

### **Tues. 3/17**

- 10 a.m. Bible Girls
- 6 p.m. Evening Community Cupboard

### **Wed. 3/18**

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast Club @ LH
- 9 a.m. Bulletin Items Due
- 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 6 p.m. Wired Word @ AmVets
- 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice

### **Thurs. 3/19**

- 9 a.m. Session Reports Due

### **Fri. 3/20**

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 8:30 a.m. Community Cupboard
- 9 a.m. Session Packets Distributed

# What's Happening

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## **Youth Brunch Fundraiser—Today Between Services**

There will be a youth brunch in the Fellowship Hall on March 8 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Please make plans to attend and support our youth group. There will be no Sunday School or youth group to allow everyone to enjoy the brunch. The cost for your meal is a donation to the youth group.

## **Mondays in Lent—and More!!**

Lent is a time of year when we prepare ourselves to welcome Christ at Easter. We are offering you many opportunities to do just that. Please stop by the Welcome table and pick up a flyer that lists the many upcoming activities for Lent. Here are a few coming up soon:

### **Soup & Bread Suppers - Monday, 9 & 23 at 5 PM**

Join us on Mondays, March 9 & 23 for a Soup & Bread Supper from 5-5:45 p.m. followed at 5:45 p.m. by the movie “Jesus of Nazareth” (*see more about the movie below*). There is a sign up sheet at the Activity Center in the narthex if you would like to volunteer to bring soup or bread.

### **“Jesus of Nazareth” - Mondays, March 2, 9 & 23 at 5:45 PM**

Franco Zeffirelli’s masterwork “Jesus of Nazareth” is divided into four parts. The first part centering around the Nativity was shown last December during Advent. The next three parts will be shown after our Lenten suppers March 2, 9 and 23. Parts 2 and 3 focus on the life and ministry of Jesus while Part 4 portrays the Crucifixion and Resurrection. (Each part lasts 65 to 75 minutes.) Acclaimed by critics and viewers alike, “Jesus of Nazareth” remains one of the finest depictions of the story of Christ nearly forty years after its release. We hope you and your family will participate in this moving experience.

## **New Class Coming in March**

“The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life” is our next six session class. It will be offered March 15, 22 & 29 and then continue after Easter, April 19 & 26 and finish May 3. Written by Adam Hamilton, the same author who wrote “Christianity and World Religions,” the book and dvd will offer practical suggestions on how to take important next steps in our daily walk with Christ. Thank you Pam Coleman for leading these discussions. Please register at the Activity Center if you would like to attend. A donation of \$10 will be appreciated by not required.

## Lenten Cantata - Palm Sunday, April 5 at 4 PM

Make plans to attend our Lenten Cantata to be presented on Palm Sunday, April 5 at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. The Elk Lake Community Choir will perform this concert to enhance the spiritual journey of those who attend. We welcome all to share in this beautiful music. ~ Cheryl Knight

### TREASURER REPORT

Through 2.29.20

<b>Contributions</b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
Pledge Giving	\$ 44,237	\$ 62,666
Designated Giving	\$ 9,833	\$ 10,000
Unpledged Giving	\$ 5,029	\$ 10,833
Other Income	\$ 449	\$ 1,291
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 59,548</b>	<b>\$ 84,790</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 96,294</b>	<b>\$ 87,490</b>
<b>Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (36,746)</b>	

## Free Community Dinner - Monday, March 16

Make plans to attend our Free Community Dinner on Monday, March 16 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet at the Activity Center along with a donation box to help with expenses. Chef Jeremy is cooking an excellent meal of chicken with mustard cream sauce, vegetable medley, macaroni & cheese, and chocolate chip bars, and everyone is welcome. Invite your friends, family and neighbors! We hope to see you Monday night!

## Birthday Sign Up for Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee would love to acknowledge birthdays of all our members, especially our children. Would you please take a moment and check the birthday sign in sheet at the Activity Center in the Narthex? Thank You!




# Contemporary Worship Service – 11:00 AM

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

## **Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church!**

If you do not have a church home in the Elk Rapids area, we invite you to make our church yours. We are an open congregation and we welcome you. Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor so you have an opportunity to get acquainted.

 *We encourage you to take a moment to check in on Facebook.*

Fellowship & Refreshments in Narthex

## **ADORE**

GREETING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pam Coleman

KID'S BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Madelyn Conrad

Leader: Friends of God, believe this –

**People: God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved!**

Leader: May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling. Friends of God,

**All: let us worship!**

WORSHIP SONGS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN

Autumn Snyder  
Merrick Peters

## **LEARN**

SCRIPTURE READING – John 3:1-18 (NLT)

MESSAGE:

“A Love Story”

Marcy Potter

## **NEXT STEPS**

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

OUR RESPONSE: GIVING, CHILDREN'S & PRAYER STATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

## **SENDING**

CLOSING SONG

VISION

BENEDICTION

## **WORSHIP CONCLUDES—SERVICE BEGINS!**

**Thank you.** Special thanks to our volunteers from last week - Jan Burns provided snacks and Jan & Gary Burns ushered.

**Nursery** is in the lower level. Infants and children through 5 years old can be dropped off and picked up by parents or a responsible adult.

**Worship through your gifts:** You may offer a gift during the 'Next Steps' portion of the service. A box is located in the front of the church for your offering.